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PRAYERS

IN MEMORIAM

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Henrietta Bacon Stein

PRAYERS

IN MEMORIAM

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EVA BACH

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PREFACE

THIS collection of prayers is compiled in memory of my gifted and hallowed daughter, Henriette Bach Stein, whose custom it was to devote herself to daily outpouring of gratitude to, and adoration of God.

It may serve, in some measure, to portray the ethereal aspect of her life, and the divine confidence which led her to be reliant upon God only; and may possibly be the means of spiritualizing others, less fortunate in this inherent faith.

They were written in the youthful days of her life, and constantly employed in the union of the family, as oral offerings to the Lord, in acknowledgment of blessings bestowed.

Those written by her are designated by the asterisk (*); the others are the feeble efforts of a yearning mother.

EVA BACH

RESIGNMENT TO GOD, UPON HIS SUMMONS OF THE CHILD

And half we deemed she needed not
The changing of her sphere,
To give to Heaven a Shining One,
Who walked an Angel here.

WHITTIER.

GREAT GOD IN HEAVEN, DIVINE POWER AND KING;

WE praise and extol Thy holy name, we glorify in Thy divine presence, we love and adore, and worship Thee. All is from Thy hand.

Thou hast found it wise to take unto Thee our angel child—Henriette; she was the joy of our lives, the breath of our existence, the pivot upon which we revolved, the nucleus upon which we wound every thought and action.

Thou knowest best, Heavenly Father, Thy will be done. We bow down in submission to Thy holy way.

We pray Thee, Heavenly Father, to reward our child On High, for the beautiful life she led here below.

She was devoted to Thy commandments and precepts; her one fear in life was that of displeasing Thee or of incurring Thy disfavor.

She was good and pure and holy and divine; she was loving and tender, kind and devoted; she was dutiful, obedient and respectful to her parents, to her husband and to the obligations of maternity; she was assiduously industrious to the wonderful genius and art Thou hast given her; she was prayerful and devout, appreciative and grateful for the many blessings Thou hast sent to her, and to us, during her lifetime.

Oh, Father, fold her in Thy arms and let the radiance of her happiness with Thee shine down upon us, and give us some moments of peace, some thoughts of contentment, as we journey through the lonely road, without her.

We thank Thee for the supernatural help Thou hast given us in these desolate hours of distress.

Thou hast ever been mercifully kind unto us, and Thou wilt not desert us now in the hour of anguish.

We thank Thee for Thy help, through all the crises and vicissitudes of our lives; in every emergency Thou hast been our guide, and our guard, and we have leaned only upon Thee, Kind Father, ever conscious of Thy divine presence, ever cognizant of Thy sublime aid, and always orally and mentally grateful to Thee for Thy benign assistance.

Oh Father: come close to us now; we cannot exist without Thy support; hold us erect, teach us the purport of life, and the way to continue in the manner that will be acceptable to Thine eyes.

Almighty God, receive Thy angel into the realm of Thy glory, reward and bless her, and purify us, that we may come to meet her in Heaven with Thee.

* SABBATH PRAYER

As the Sabbath draws near and closes another week of contentment, health, and hence happiness, we are again inspired and prompted to raise our voices in gratitude to Thee, Oh, God and Great Protector, who wills all things, and who alone can do, or undo, the destiny of mortal existence.

The lives allotted to us are free from the stifling and unconquerable ills which fall to the lot of so many of our brethren, and even when we are tried in minor matters (perhaps most trivial in Thy sight) we always find ourselves buoyed up by Thy hand—and capable of facing the battle.

Oh, Lord, our days on this earth are few and short, and what we can accomplish in our small way, let us hope, is only a stepping stone, which leads us to the foot of Thy throne, where we may bow in humbleness as Thy servants.

May this stepping stone be founded upon grains of truth, honesty, uprightness, and subservience to Thy will; so that when we take the final step, we may not falter, but may find a firm and solid foundation, established in the belief that the incentive has been the light of Thy Divine Countenance. *Amen!*

* SABBATH PRAYER

Oh, God;

It is in great reverence and appreciation that we bow down to Thee this Sabbath evening, in thankfulness for Thy holy protection and unbounded blessings.

Thou hast given us strength to face all difficulties, and above all, Thou hast given us the assurance of Thy Almighty guidance.

Help us to be worthy of it all, Oh, Lord, so that we may deserve renewed blessings, which I pray Thou mayst see fit to bestow upon us.

If we have too evidently manifested our shortcomings, Oh, God, overlook them and let us find hereafter, as we have found heretofore, comfort in the knowledge that Thou art the only Power.

At this moment, Oh, Lord, hear, feel, and know that my whole soul is with Thee and I can almost interpret Thy holy answer —

I, the Lord, thy God,
  Am watching you,
Keep your faith, your prayers,
  Your conscience true.
In all my glory
  Even do I feel,
Your slightest hope,
  Your every appeal.

SABBATH PRAYER

ALMIGHTY FATHER;

LEND Thy goodly presence, and hear our prayers to Thee.

In Thy holiness and all powerful kindness Thou hast blessed us with another week of life and health, peace and contentment.

Thy paternal watchfulness has ever been with us, and we feel Thy mighty presence ever nigh.

Each day has brought us good, since no evil has befallen us; each night have we given up our lives (in mysterious ignorance) to Thy holy care and Thou hast restored us at morn, given us the same faculties, the same satisfactions of life.

What are we that we are deserving of so much mercy? How little of our lives is devoted to Thee! How worldly are the thoughts which crowd our daily pursuits.

We are but frail mortals who stand in awe of Thy reproach. We are frivolous and inclined to forget Thy goodness.

Help us to remember that all things come from Thee.

Teach us, Oh, God, to know Thy infinite

power; to instil in the neglectful the importance of Thy greatness; to be ever mindful of Thy watchful presence and to promulgate the sincerity of Thy oneness.

Who, Oh, God, of earthly creatures, can look about them and doubt Thy omnipotence? Who can fail to see and feel Thy omnipresence?

We pity the wretched souls who have not learned to recognize Thee. We pray for power to give them knowledge and to enlighten them in Thy favor. Thy great works are before us all—weak are the eyes which cannot behold Thy splendor on earth. Weak are the minds which cannot realize the power Thou hast over poor mankind.

We thank Thee, Oh, God, for the intellect with which Thou hast endowed us, wherewith we can appreciate Thy kindness.

We know and believe that all good comes from Thee, that every blessing is Thy gift.

We thank Thee in this hour of apparent prosperity, we pray Thee to prolong the goodly favor Thou hast given us, and that when the hour of trouble is near we may again be permitted to call upon Thee with fervor and renewed faith.

In the hour of disconsolation, our hearts will quickly turn to Thee, then let us be deserving of Thy mercy and Thy presence.

Oh, God, in the hour of anguish Thou hast heard our prayers; when all mankind hath lost strength, Thou hast lifted Thy helping hand,

and in miraculous glory hast convinced us of Thy existence and Thy power.

Heavenly Father, we are too remiss in our acknowledgment.

Let it be in our power to serve Thee, Oh, Lord; to do good on earth and to be worthy of Thy attention.

Let us live for the lofty aims of life; let not the petty ills of humanity have weight in our enlightened minds, but give us courage to aspire to that which can benefit mankind; give us strength to bear all the mental strain incumbent upon a moral life, and make our lives worthy of Thy mercy.

Many blessings have fallen to us, which we have accepted as natural occurrences; forgive us, that we have not bent in immediate praise of Thee and Thy holy mercy.

Around about us Thy mighty creation stands out in beautiful magnificence; daily we enjoy its grandeur, forgetting that Thou art the Maker, that Thou hast given, and canst also deprive.

Oh, Lord, many are the ignorant, and impious, who know not how to worship Thee, who turn in dismay at the thought of prayer, who never lift their hearts in gratitude to Thee, and who never open their lips in praise of Thee.

Give them courage to behold and acknowledge Thy power; open their eyes to the blessings before them; help them to realize that all is from Thy hand.

We thank Thee for the knowledge Thou hast given us in our religion, that we can withstand all claim to Thy power—one God and one only, with no earthly image.

We thank Thee for the realization of Thy almighty supremacy.

* SABBATH PRAYER

Oh, God;

On this Sabbath evening we again bow down in thankfulness and gratitude for the many blessings bestowed upon us; for Thy never tiring vigilance, and Thy loving protection.

Teach us, Oh, God, to be worthy of Thy blessed guidance and to honor the name of "A Child of Thine."

Overlook our faults, and forgive our wrong-doings, for our thoughts are pure and our intentions to please but Thee.

If we have not thanked Thee for each and every blessing, think not that it is because we do not realize their value, for we know, Oh: God, that each minute of our lives is a privilege from Thee, and we hope to deserve Thy favor.

Oh, Lord, relieve us from all trouble, and give us strength to bear all the ills which may befall us.

With Thy fond protection, and the feeling of Thy presence ever with us, we cannot but be happy, for no matter where we go we know that Thou art leading the way, and wilt not

desert us. Pitiable is the person who has not this belief.

Bless those who do believe, by hearing their prayers, and watching over them, always, for they know and realize that Thine is the only real power.

SABBATH PRAYER

Great Father in Heaven, Sublime Ruler and King;

Again we thank Thee for the blessings of the past week—again Thou hast convinced us of Thy glory and power and hast persuaded us to rest peacefully in Thy care.

We are not sufficiently prayerful; we are remiss in our expressions of gratitude to Thee; we dwell too seriously upon earthly frailties and frivolity.

Our lives should be devoted to oral offerings of continuous prayer, and to the promulgation of Thy greatness.

Hast Thou not placed us here? And have we not derived every moment of peace and succor from Thy divine love?

How, then, may we deliver unto Thy holy shrine the sentiments of appreciation and thankfulness we feel within us?

Let these feeble utterances transmit to Thee, Kind Father, the holy reverence we maintain towards Thy omnipotent presence and our ever increasing gratefulness for the bounty of Thy love.

Forgive us, Oh, Father, if we have transgressed or if we have appeared impatient or irritable for we are but mortals, simply imbued with the light of Thy spirit, waiting in our peccable stupor for the brilliant awaking of our spirit life with Thee in Heaven.

Oh, God, then may we share the everlasting peace that abides with Thee in the sacred splendor of Thy glorious abode on High. *Amen!*

SABBATH PRAYER

Almighty Father in Heaven;

Ever increasing is the confidence and faith we have in Thy divine existence and Thy mercy.

Paramount in our minds is the assurance of Thy great power and Thy protection.

"Knock and it shall be opened unto ye" is the watchword of our lives. "Ask and ye shall receive," is the guide to our earthly wishes.

Each day we feel the need of Thy help, each day we look up in supplication to Thee, and each day Thou hast heard our prayers and hast appeared in Thy mercy, to gratify our requests.

On this Sabbath evening, Kind God, we bow down in gratitude and in praise of Thee, extolling Thy name, with its attending power, proclaiming Thy omnipotence to all the vain mortals, and admitting our inferiority.

We are nothing, Heavenly Father, in our own insignificance; we can claim nothing from this earth and its frail attractions; but we cling to Thee, Great Father in Heaven, with all the fervor and confidence instilled by Thy divine influence.

Accept, Good God, our humble gratitude; accept, Kind Father, the acknowledgment of our never ending thankfulness, for we feel Thy presence in our midst.

Bless our dear ones and shield them from all harm; watch over us, Kind Father, as Thou hast always; and guide us into the paths of righteousness, humility, and subservience to Thee and Thy mighty will.

* SABBATH PRAYER

ALMIGHTY FATHER IN HEAVEN;

WE beseech Thee to hear again our prayers, lifted to Thee in thankfulness, for another week of Thy supreme vigilance, and for Thy kindness in keeping us in good health and free from mental burdens and anxieties.

Oh, God, it seems too little to but thank Thee in cold words for the mercy Thou hast shown us; but, how else are we able to extend our gratitude?

Is a few minutes, spent each day in prayer, all Thou askest in return for Thy watchfulness?

Oh, Lord, if Thou canst but see in our hearts, and interpret the words of our souls, Thou knowest to what heights we soar, to dwell with Thee, and how our innermost feelings lead only to Thee.

Forgive us, Lord, if we have not bowed down to Thee enough, for how could we thank Thee sufficiently unless we were to devote our whole existence to one long continued prayer.

On this Sabbath eve, Oh, Lord, forgive us any sins of the past week, that we may start in anew the coming week, with free and noble hearts, ready to serve Thee and Thee only, now and forever more. *Amen!*

SABBATH PRAYER

ALMIGHTY FATHER;

WITH souls uplifted by confidence in Thy divine help, we again seek to praise and extol Thy holy name, and to offer up our gratitude for another week of health, peace, contentment, and faith in Thee.

Thy great power is manifest in all things; Thy mercy is extended to all creatures; we feel and realize our utter helplessness without Thee; we crave Thy good will and tender vigilance.

Let not evil befall us, nor base thoughts control our fancy and imagination, but let us dwell in the favor of Thy divine light and in the bounty of Thy blessings.

There is light and hope in Thy omnipresent love; darkness and despair without Thy gracious guidance.

Direct our steps, Kind Father, so that we shall not falter, nor fall, and lead us onward to the joy that is to be everlasting in Thy presence. *Amen!*

SABBATH PRAYER UPON CROSSING THE OCEAN

ALMIGHTY FATHER;

EACH moment of our lives should be filled with grateful thoughts to Thee.

How very fitting, then, is this time when sailing upon Thy mighty waters where every evidence of Thy great power is presented to us, in a spectacular representation of Thy glory, and where every hope of safety and comfort is centered in Thee.

All the wonders that man has wrought are as nothing, compared to the wonders of Thy creation.

Man has only served as Thy humble tool, wherewith Thou canst prove, to the human mind, all the marvelous tasks of which Thou art capable, for Thou art the only Power, the divine inspiration of all that is noble and exalted.

All mankind should bow down in humility and gratitude before Thee always, never forgetting Thy supremacy, Thy omnipotence and Thy mercy.

Should Thy people err, and be unmindful of

Thy blessings and Thy presence, then let our little band be not of this number; allow all our family to feel free to come to Thee upon this Sabbath evening, with outstretched arms, in gratefulness and in holy appreciation of Thy goodness unto us.

We thank Thee for the many favors bestowed upon us, among these the freedom from pain and from mental suspense, the safety in Thy protection through all our travels and all the moments of discouragement as strangers in strange lands.

During all the days of separation from home and attachments we have felt Thy presence and we pray Thee, Kind Father, to guide us onward to end of our journey, there to meet our loved ones in safety, there to again offer our thanksgiving and praise to Thee, in the reunion of our family, and there to bless Thy holy name as we always have done, forever and ever. *Amen!*

CHILD'S NIGHT PRAYER

To my darling little Henriette, in her seventh year, upon her request for a new prayer, saying she was tired of "Now I lay me down to sleep":

Father, watch me through the night
Keep me happy, well, and bright;
Shield me from all care and pain
Let me Thy good will retain.

Thou hast blessed me with life's pleasure,
Given me every earthly treasure;
Help me to deserve this favor,
And to know Thou art the Giver.

* FEAR THE LORD

Blessings come to those who fear the Lord, who walk uprightly, and who do not stand in the paths of others.

I say unto you now, fear the Lord; trust in Him, who giveth all good for He is the only one who can give, and He bestoweth upon His children with never tiring hand.

Pray to God, now and forever, so that when you are in sore distress, and the hour comes when you must call upon Him for great unearthly help, you may do so, with clean hands, clean hearts, and He will never fail you.

God never fails those who trust in Him, the Almighty One.

Oh, God, who can doubt Thee? Who can screen from mental view Thy Almighty hand, clasped in ours to guide us in Thy own holy paths of righteousness and contentment?

The man of sorrows needs Thee to comfort and support him in the great trials Thou hast placed before him, and the man of happiness should feel that he requires Thy attention to hearken to his thanksgiving by way of prayers; so that when the hour of gloom appears, he may

again turn to his Father in Heaven with a free and noble mind and a devoted soul.

I thank Thee now and forever for Thy constant watchfulness over me, and for the great protection Thou hast given me, which enables me to accomplish a height in life, bringing me closer to Thee, to dwell in body, mind, and soul. *Amen!*

GREAT GOD IN HEAVEN;

THOU hast given us a mighty privilege; the honor and advantage of knowing Thee, of recognizing Thy great power, and of abiding in the hope and faith in Thy supervision.

We are as the flowers in Thy fields; swayed by Thy gentle winds; nursed by Thy tender care; even as they fade and perish here below, so shall we all; but the soul shall find its abiding place in the realm of Thy sacred dominion on high, where all is everlasting peace and joy.

Oh, Heavenly Father, help us to rise above all thoughts of timidity, distress, or depression, and let our only fear be the fear of displeasing Thee.

Let not the days hang heavily upon our hands, but give us the spirit and cheer concomitant with the confidence we feel in Thy will and Thy way.

Crown us with hope, and pride, and courage to do all things well in Thy sight.

Let us humbly approach Thee, Heavenly

Father, and seek Thy loving presence, shed these blessings over our dear ones, and incline Thine ear to our supplications for Thy benign assistance. *Amen!*

MERCIFUL GOD IN HEAVEN;

THERE is nothing on earth so uplifting as the solitary communion with Thee.

There is nothing which can educe the perfect balm of solace, like the abandonment of all that is worldly to the holy calling of God's guidance.

Pour out your souls to God, ye humans, ask of Him all the favors ye would seek.

Rest not your hopes in mortals for they are powerless to assist; they are but the mediums of God's response.

Live always with the presence of God and give from the fountain of pleasure to the devotion towards God.

In the midst of enjoyment, gratification and earthly satisfaction, take time and thought to offer up your gratefulness to God, lest the joys be shortened and ye are found undeserving and unthankful in the eyes of God.

"Ask Heaven for wisdom, virtue, health,
But never let your prayer be wealth."

*OH, GOD;

THOU art so good and I do so appreciate all the wonderful blessings Thou hast bestowed upon me.

If we could but know the mystery of Thy Almighty Power, or could but see Thy hand, which does all, we could so much better feel that Thou dost know our gratefulness—but it is not meant that we should be so wise, and Thou hast, therefore, ordained that we live in ignorance of Thy secret guardianship, except for the fact that an All-powerful Being is prompting us and that Being is our Almighty Father in Heaven.

In all matters, whether of import or insignificance, I pray Thee, Lord, to give me power to do and judge correctly; to lay a pleasant path for my weary feet to tread in, for as many years as may be happy ones. *Amen!*

*Father in Heaven;

We realize more than ever Thy great power.

Thou hast truly been merciful unto us at all times, and in all places.

The disappointments which come into every life have been few and trivial to us, even as they are in Thy sight. We are blessed with the great belief that "all is for the best."

Give us strength, Oh, Lord, to fulfill our duty on earth and be happy in so doing; knowing that our lives lie in the one aim of accomplishing to the best of our ability the calling Thou hast seen fit in Thy wisdom to place before us.

Almighty Father in Heaven;

Every impulse of good cometh from On High; every moment of contentment is Thy blessing.

All suspense and care is relieved by the grace of Thy help.

Mortal man cannot gainsay the truth of Thy omnipresence; it is too evident and too manifest in all things.

We extol Thee and proclaim Thy holy name.

Without Thee, we are as atoms, tossed about by every unfavorable wind. With Thee, Kind Father, we are comforted with the foundation of security.

Great Father, can we not see how little there is in life? Can we not see that it is all in death, and with Thee?

Those who disbelieve will founder in their lack of hope.

Bless those who trust in Thee, with the full realization of all the contentment and happiness concomitant with the assurance of Thy existence and Thy presence.

Every moment of our lives is filled with the indications of Thy aid, and Thy power. All time belongs to Thee; we mortals may compute it by days, weeks and years, but to Thee it is as naught until we shall enter the realm of Thy glory.

Let not a doubt of God's supremacy enter the mortal mind, for He has given sufficient

proof of His existence and He will be angry at those who make light of His power.

Trust in God, and the moments of darkness will be brightened with His great influence, and all worldly cares can be thrust aside by His divine intervention.

We pray Thee, Good Lord, to keep us calm, trustful and contented now and forever. *Amen!*

TRUST IN GOD'S GUIDANCE

ALMIGHTY FATHER IN HEAVEN;

PEACE is granted to those who call upon Thee, and help to those who are in need.

Thy benign influence is ever upon us.

In every thought we feel Thy presence; in every move we feel Thy will and Thy way.

With submissive weakness we yield our inferiority to Thy great and omniscient judgment.

Divine light cometh only to those who are willing to see and acknowledge Thy power, and to proclaim the verity of it orally and mentally.

The greatest blessings to mankind are overlooked and accepted too lightly; we are not sufficiently prayerful and devout in the acknowledgment of Thy mighty protection.

Let this moment, Kind Father, appear to Thee as one of penitence and devotion to Thee in proof of our gratitude for the many blessings extended to our family.

We have suffered often of weakness and despair but our faith in Thee has never wavered, and Thou hast never failed to be nigh unto us.

The mysteries of this life are made lucid to us by the light of Thy omnipresent protection.

What knowledge do we require but the knowledge of Thy aid?

It was not ordained that we should pry into the mortal meaning of Thy ways, but to place implicit trust in Thee and to be led by Thy light only. *Amen!*

"Lord, it is Thy will and it shall be mine; Thou art just in all Thy dealings with the children of men, and I know Thou wilt not afflict me beyond what I can bear, and if I can bear it I ought to bear it; and, Thy grace assisting me, I will bear it."

RICHARDSON.

GRATITUDE TO GOD

Great God, Lord of Heaven;

Our gratitude to Thee knows no means of expression; language is all too limited in essaying to impart to Thee the ineffable sentiment of appreciation we feel within us.

We are not unmindful of the ills which could befall us, but with the security of Thy care naught can mar the serenity of our lives nor molest the quietude of our peace.

Teach us, Oh Father, the way to do right, and give us the means of helping others, even as Thou has deputized others to help us.

The angels on earth sent by Thy hand are as recognizable as those who abide in Heaven, and the acts of kindness coming to us are as plainly visible from Thy hand as those of man to man.

We are endeavoring to do right, and we feel Thy Almighty assistance.

We cherish it, and acknowledge it, and adore the assurance of Thy presence.

Help us on, Oh, Father, to higher ideals, and to the ignorance of all that is lowly and frivo-

lous in Thy sight; so that we may be better prepared to meet Thee, with souls uplifted and consciences free from stain.

Almighty Father in Heaven;

In fervent prayer, again we raise our voices to Thee, to thank Thee, and to bow down in gratitude for Thy blessings, and for the assurance of Thy protection.

Without Thee, Oh, God, we are as infants, dependent upon Thy care. We are but weak mortals, with naught to support us but Thy aid and Thy approval.

Kind Father, teach us the way of the righteous and the devout; teach us the methods and the glory of clinging to Thee, and the comfort of finding relief and consolation in Thy benign assistance.

We have so much to be grateful for; we cannot enumerate the many blessings Thou hast sent to us.

In daily occupation, and in pursuit of pleasure and frivolity, we are unmindful of Thy presence, and we are neglectful of our duties towards Thee.

Give us, Oh, God, the power to assist unfortunate beings, who seem distressed here upon earth, and who appear to suffer the pangs of poverty, want, and illness; help us to convey Thy message of love and mercy to them and make us the medium of Thy kindly help.

For all good comes from Thee, Oh, God, and all is made by Thy hand.

We thank Thee for this week of contentment; we have mastered all momentous affairs; we have controlled all our weaker sentiments; we have exercised patience with petty cares, and have trusted faithfully in Thy divine guidance.

We thank Thee, Almighty Power, for Thy help, for Thy presence, for Thy all-powerful influence, and for the consciousness of it. *Amen!*

ALMIGHTY FATHER IN HEAVEN;

As the days pass and we feel Thy mighty presence, we lift our thoughts constantly in praise of Thee, and in gratitude to Thee.

The past week has been one of peace and contentment under Thy watchful care.

We owe all these precious advantages, all the blessings bestowed upon us to Thy great and bountiful munificence.

Thou art ever with us, tenderly guiding us, and showering blessings upon us; blessing unseen by us, in our blind insignificance.

Oh, let us not be remiss in our manifestations of gratitude.

There are moments of worldly excitement, when we place too much stress upon earthly matters in lieu of devoting ourselves to Thee in everlasting thankfulness.

Looking up to Thee, Kind Father, every burden seems lifted from our hearts.

Trusting in Thee, all life is beautiful and attractive.

Oh, Good Lord, that we might serve Thee in loftier, holier ways; that we might be permitted to assist unfortunate beings with Thy divine light and give to them the supreme confidence that Thou hast given to us.

Let us not appear selfish with our blessings; give us mortal power to distribute good among those deserving of consideration and help. Can we not feel Thy presence?

Have we not always experienced the devout communion between God and man, which speaks to us in silent assurance of Thy power, Thy presence, and Thy knowledge?

Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent Father in Heaven, we acknowledge Thee now and forever.

Thy divine light shines through all darkness—the blessing of Thy love comes to all who seek it.

Proofs of Thy Omnipotent glory abound in the heavens above and upon the earth below; those who see them not are wilfully blind to the wonderful indications Thou hast evinced of Thy power and Thy existence.

There is not a creature upon earth that can feel perfect contentment without Thy help.

We require Thy protection every moment of our lives.

We place our trust in Thee, and thus we cannot err.

We may have moments of mortal suspense and anxiety, but the assurance of Thy holy vigilance rises ever above these earthly thoughts, steering us on to the path of safety and wisdom.

We thank Thee, Kind God, that Thou hast lifted us up above the benighted disbelievers, and hast given to us the comfort of divine faith in Thee.

GOD IS EVER NIGH UNTO US

ALMIGHTY FATHER IN HEAVEN;

WE thank Thee for this week of contentment and peace.

We thank Thee for Thy divine assistance, which has carried us through all moments of hesitancy and uncertainty.

We could accomplish nothing without Thy aid.

Let not suspense, nor sorrow, nor pain enter our lives nor disturb the beautiful peace with which Thou hast enriched us.

Contentment is Thy most precious gift to mankind, because it implies all of our wishes, comprised in one.

Thou art ever nigh unto us; our own sense of security tells us this, and bids us be ever trustful and reliant upon Thy mercy, as upon the only rock of salvation.

We are, Kind Father, leaning heavily upon Thee, for we believe not in earthly, mortal help.

We believe it is Thou alone who giveth us comfort and satisfaction.

We thank Thee, Great God, with souls full of devotion.

We worship Thy will, and reverently bow to Thy way.

All is good, and all is from Thy hand.

Inspire us, Heavenly Father, with the blessed example of Thy holiness.

Impress us with Thy All-powerful existence, and let that assurance increase from day to day with the gladness of Thy presence. We pray Thee to endow us with the means of helping mankind; with the patience to be kind and tolerant towards others, and with the meekness to bow down humbly, reverently, to Thee in Thy great dominion of power.

In all moments of trial, we have but to call God to the rescue—call the Good Lord, with implicit faith, and He will appear unfalteringly, unremittingly, answering every prayer.

If weak mortals were to cease lamenting and pause to recognize God, they would find Him omnipresent at every step in life.

The moments of suspense and pain are but the warnings from On High; the moments of relief are the proofs of God's divine power, and the response from His Merciful Greatness.

We beseech Thee to look down upon Thy children in mercy and grace, sheltering us with the comfort of Thy care.

Good Father in Heaven;

Is not Thy kindness and protection evinced at every step we take in life?

Hast Thou not revealed Thy power when all earthly succor has failed?

Hast Thou not represented the glory of Thy omniscience at every turning point of our existence?

Nothing can cause us to be oblivious of Thy protection; no joy nor sorrow can take from us the knowledge and faith in Thy presence.

This life has not the importance we mortals attach to it, but the life to come with Thee is the one goal of our aspirations which should lead us in patient observance of all Thy ways, preparing us to meet Thy Almighty presence and Thy approval.

Thy ways shall be our ways; Thy will shall be as is best for us.

We thank Thee for the hours of contentment; we thank Thee for the days of grace Thou hast in Thy infinite wisdom bestowed upon us.

The ways of mortal are vain and idle; the path of virtue lies in Thy noble example.

It is better to lead a life with Thee alone than to participate in all the frivolous allurements of mankind. What is today but the dawn of tomorrow?

The period of our dwelling here below is brief and shallow, but the life to come, with Thee, is holy and everlasting.

Teach us the glory of Thy way, Kind Father, and lead us to the path of righteousness and duty towards Thee, and prepare us to meet

Thee with upright souls, and the knowledge of Thy approbation.

Almighty Father;

The days pass, and we are nearer to Thee, nearer in life, and closer to death and to Thee.

All time is governed by the contentment given from On High.

We pray Thee, Kind Father, to look down in mercy upon Thy feeble, trembling children, to steady the weary limbs, to strengthen the failing hearts, and to give cheer to the despondent souls. Thy presence, Oh, God, is all we ask; Thy care is all we require.

We pray Thee, Heavenly Father, to let us find favor in Thy eyes and to extend Thy mercy and sympathy to those who struggle to do right.

The days of anguish and despair are sent to us, to school us in the ways of sacrifice and to steady our faith in Thy salvation.

We shall not waver, neither shall we depart from the course Thou hast ordained for us, but in sublime confidence, follow Thy lead, and continue to pray for Thy guiding hand.

We are often despondent and lost to our own control, but through the apparent gloom we feel the courage of Thy divine presence, and Thy parental care and observation.

We pray Thee, Kind Father, to be nigh unto

us, and to advise us, and fill us with contented cheer, so that we may be strong and ready to perform the earthly duties incumbent upon us.

Thou hast been so kind to us; hast blessed us with divine understanding; hast given us the supreme knowledge of Thy existence and omnipresence.

We humble ourselves before Thee in submissive recognition of Thy holiness and Thy power.

* Oh, Lord;

I pray Thee to hear me again in my humble prayer to Thee.

My gratefulness to Thee, Kind Father, is unbounded for all Thy goodness to me.

Help me, I pray, to deserve Thy blessings, and put the words into my mouth which best convey to Thee my thankfulness for Thy Almighty guidance.

I am such a poor mortal, and Thou art so wonderfully great and sympathetic towards my wants and needs that I feel guilty at not having a more satisfactory way of coming into Thy presence with my intense appreciation.

But no matter where or how I may pray, Thou knowest well, Oh, God, how my soul rises to Thee only, to thank, to extol, and to worship Thee, my Heavenly Father and Great Master. *Amen!*

Heavenly Father, All-wise Sovereign;

Each day that we live, verifies the truth of Thy existence and Thy superior wisdom, in directing our footsteps.

We know not how to serve Thee with sufficient humility and subservience.

We yearn to improve our ways and to make ourselves holy in Thy sight.

Enlighten us, Kind Father, to the fulfillment of these desires, and signify to us Thy satisfaction with our humble efforts by a continuance of Thy divine love.

GRATITUDE FOR CONTENTED LIFE

Heavenly Father;

Another week has been allotted us, full of contentment and peace; full of the glory of Thy presence.

The sweet pleasures of life have not been lessened nor interrupted with anxiety or suspense, and we bow down in gratitude to Thee for Thy spiritual protection.

We thank Thee, Heavenly Father, for the good health that prevails among us, and for the freedom from care and pain, and that no ills have intruded upon our peaceful existence.

It would be most unjust to receive all these uninterrupted blessings without words of recognition to Thee, Almighty King, the Kind and Merciful Giver.

Have we merited the joys which so surround us? If not, Oh, Heavenly Father, forgive us and accept our gratitude in this moment of acknowledgment and prayer.

Let us realize, Kind Father, that pain is but the reminder of that which may befall us, hence

the promoter of satisfaction, for when we find our poor bodies distressed we immediately look to Thee for relief, for support, and for the assurance of recovery.

Keep far from us the spirit of discontent, that evil usurper of the beautiful existence Thou hast bestowed upon us; let it not creep into the harmony of our lives and thereby make us appear ungrateful in Thine eyes.

Let every hour Thou hast given us be employed with motives of good; with kindness toward our fellowmen, and with the acceptance of Thy power.

We implore Thee to keep all evil from us. We ask for nothing more, Oh, God, than that Thou hast already given.

We are contented, happy, blessed; we pray, Kind God, but for its continuance.

A peaceful home is ours; loving hearts surround us, tender thoughts and solicitations await us; Oh, let us be deserving of it all, and should we err, Oh, Father, guide us aright that we may be innocent of false intention and steer us back to the haven of honor and righteousness that we may be reminded of Thy merciful example.

GRATITUDE FOR SUPERIOR HOME LIFE

ALMIGHTY FATHER IN HEAVEN;

THY deeds of kindness are great and noble; our hearts are overflowing with gratitude. We are supremely blessed with Thy divine supervision. We are crowned with joy, realizing Thy presence. The dawn of day is but Thy light, and the shadow of evening means Thy protection.

All earthly sighing and yearning is but the innate craving to approach Thee, and Thy haven of rest and relief, while this earth is but the threshold to the final abiding home with Thee. The trivial sorrows here are but the lifeboats leading to Heaven, preparing us for our permanent abode with God.

It matters not how our day passes, just so that it closes with Thee. It matters not what discomfort we appear to suffer, so that Thy protection cometh unto us. Thy mercy is everlasting, and Thy toleration of all our foibles and errors remains supreme. Let us not take advantage of Thy great consideration

of us. Let us not be neglectful in our devotion to Thee.

Thou hast blessed us with the choice environment of genius and art; hast blessed us with love, affection, and all that affiliation which completes the happy home life. We pray Thee to give us the endurance requisite to this separation, and to unite us again in health, love, and harmony.

TRUST IN GOD

No care nor sorrow casts me down,
  For Thou art ever near;
No idle word, nor earthly frown
  Can steal upon my cheer.

No casket filled with rarest gems
  Can satisfy my soul;
But pious deeds, and apothegms,
  Will lift me to Thy goal.

No violence of nature's wrath
  Can bid my spirit quail;
For Thou art leading to the path
  Where courage doth prevail.

No disappointment crushes me,
  Nor pang of keen despair;
For all my trust is placed in Thee,
  My being in Thy care.

No sorrow born of shattered hope,
  Can mar my peace serene;
Full willing in the dark I grope,
  And on Thy guidance lean.

CROSSING THE OCEAN

ALMIGHTY FATHER IN HEAVEN;

WE are thrilled with the awe-inspiring evidences of Thy omnipotence. The majesty of Thy wonderful creation, the warring elements, the magnitude of Thy works, all bespeak Thy positive supremacy and merciful existence.

We are filled with emotion, and praise, and thanksgiving for the permission of observing Thy wonders.

The gigantic waters, the great ocean, do not impress us with the feeling of fear but with the recognition of our own mortal inferiority and insignificance.

Thou hast in Thy great wisdom endowed mankind with the knowledge and mastery of all the intricate facilities necessary to the conquering of difficulties, but without the guidance of Our Great Master in Heaven our meagre efforts and earthly skill would be as atoms to the sea.

With sincere and everlasting gratitude we thank Thee, Kind Father, for these many weeks of help and support; for the honors and

blessings bestowed upon us, for the safety with which we have traversed foreign lands, estranged from home and dear ones, and for the accompanying assurance that Thou wert ever nigh unto us.

We pray Thee, Heavenly Father, to remain with us, shaping our future, filling it with contentment and with the help of Thy divine presence.

PRAYER UPON CROSSING THE OCEAN

ALMIGHTY FATHER;

DURING this week of Thy holy protection our thoughts have incessantly arisen to Thee in gratitude and ecstasy over the wonders of Thy creation.

With Thy watchful care we have been permitted to cross the deep mysterious seas so wonderfully beautiful to behold, so magnificent in the splendor and representation of Thy supreme power.

What nobler evidence have we than the sublime privilege of looking upon Thy mighty work and its proof of Thy omnipresence.

We thank Thee, Kind Father in Heaven, for the safety and comfort imbued by Thy omnipotent vigilance; without Thee all pleasure would be filled with dread and fear, while with Thee we are as children confident of and dependent upon Thy fatherly aid.

We pray Thee, Kind God, to guard our dear, devoted companions at home, to help them in lonely hours, to relieve them from all mental

anguish and strain, and to keep us all in health so that we may not be of burden to one another, and that when the allotted interval of separation has passed we may be united again in the happy environment of the beautiful home life Thou hast awarded us.

We praise and extol Thee, Oh, God, for Thy kindness and for the many blessings bestowed upon us.

Keep us pure of thought and morally upright, so that we may deserve the rare assurance of Thy benign protection now and forever. *Amen!*

CROSSING OCEAN

Almighty Father in Heaven;

With divine inspiration Thou hast invested us with the supreme wisdom which bids us look to Thee alone for aid, the knowledge which convinces us that Thou art nigh and art ever ready to lend Thy merciful attention to our appeal.

Another week has been given us filled with contentment, health, and the glory of Thy blessed supervision.

The great wonders of Thy creation have again been uppermost in our thoughts and the frailty of mankind has ever presented itself to our minds, bidding us realize that the one great goal of happiness is to cling to Thee and Thy holy will.

We thank Thee, kind Father, with all the sincerity of our penitent souls. We thank Thee for the innumerable blessings bestowed upon us, and we pray Thee to keep us pure of thought, upright and exemplary of action, that we may lead other weak mortals into the path of wisdom and faith in Thee, the one Almighty Father and King now and forever. *Amen!*

*CROSSING THE OCEAN

KIND FATHER IN HEAVEN;

ON this Sabbath evening I again beseech Thee to hear our prayers of thanksgiving for all the blessings and comforting guidance Thou hast shown us. The ocean seems so massive and powerful, and when I think it is naught in strength or in power, compared with Thy might, it seems too much for human comprehension.

We appreciate, Oh, Lord, the protection Thou hast given us and do thank Thee now and forever more for all Thy help.

May'st Thou find it for the best, Oh, Lord, to keep us in health and make us happy and contented with whatever Thou may'st see wise to give us and may'st Thou never find us negligent in our gratitude and thankfulness toward Thee.

GOD'S PROTECTION IN TRAVEL

ALMIGHTY FATHER;

IN loving gratitude we again raise our voices to Thee for another week of Thy wonderful protection. A week filled with the dangers of travel, filled with the longing for home and dear ones. In Thee alone we have placed our trust; to Thee alone we have looked for guidance and for the spirit of contentment. Thou hast, in Thy mercy, hearkened to our appeals and hast looked down upon us with Thy benign, powerful assistance. What peace, Oh, God, without Thy presence? What security without Thy protection? What comfort without Thy approval? All is insignificant upon earth; we are but mere atoms, subject to Thy disposal, subject to Thy divine will.

Oh, God, teach us the way to serve Thee.

Instil within us the motives of holy devotion to Thee alone, and imbue within us the divine love of Thy precepts.

We are grateful, Kind God, for the innumerable blessings Thou hast bestowed upon us; each moment of content is Thy gift unto us.

Oh, Heavenly Father, remain with us and permit us the great privilege of clinging to Thee.

We pray Thee, Kind Father, to watch over our dear ones and keep them from harm and to unite us again at the allotted time in peace, happiness, and contentment. *Amen!*

GOD'S SECURITY IN TRAVEL

ALMIGHTY FATHER;

HELP me to pour forth the eloquent words worthy of proclaiming Thy greatness.

Help me to express in powerful and lucid manner the gratitude we feel for Thy beneficent care and aid.

We are cognizant of Thy Almighty presence through the days of wandering and travel.

We seem to require Thee more than ever, as we journey far from home and dear ones, and Thou hast come closer to us in the hour of need, and stress, and despair.

How do we deserve it, Kind Father? How do we merit Thy indefatigable Providence? How have we served Thee sufficiently to warrant this kind protection, this wonderful assurance of security, under Thy guiding hand?

We offer, Kind Father, unbounded thankfulness to Thee and pray Thee to make Thy exemplary influence the lode-star of our lives, helping us to help others. *Amen!*

* SECURITY IN TRAVEL

ALMIGHTY FATHER;

HEAR us again, in our prayer of thankfulness to Thee, for being our faithful Guide and never-tiring Protector.

Thou hast borne us from place to place in perfect safety, and hast relieved us from all anxiety and trivial worries, by leading us in Thy paths.

We hope, Oh, God, to deserve the marvelous protection Thou has shown us, and to be as Thou wouldst have us, in goodness and purity towards mankind.

We try to keep Thy commandments and to think of Thy impressions of all our doings, therefore are we not haughty or selfish, or boastful of blessings given us.

Help us, Oh, God, to do all things wisely, and lend an ear to our prayers and supplications.

Let no man harm us, nor nothing mar the lives we so appreciate that we may live on in pursuit of the goal to which we have aspired.

If we seem not to realize Thy blessings, for-

give us; we mean not to be in any way ungrateful of the great liberties Thou hast given us.

We believe, Oh, Lord, in Thee, and Thee only, and have no other image of a god.

We thank Thee now and forever more.

* UPON TRAVELING

God in Heaven;

Wilt Thou lend an ear again to our humble prayer, in which we thank Thee again for the blessings of the past week?

We know and feel Thy watchful presence ever with us, and our only wish is Thy blessing.

We see, Oh, Lord, the dangers encompassed around about us, and it is Thy guidance alone which steers us in and out of the passing trials which confront us on this earth.

Oh, God, if our thanks seem insufficient, forgive us—if our praise is all too meagre, do Thou hearken to us in Thy merciful glory; if we unmeaningly sin, overlook it, and be to us, as Thou hast always been, our watchful Father, and only Protector. *Amen!*

* GRATITUDE FOR SAFETY IN TRAVEL

Great God;

Thou hast heard our prayers and in Thy never-tiring watchfulness Thou hast kept us safe from all harm.

We cannot in any way show our gratitude and in my heart I feel prayer a most insufficient means of thanking Thee.

May we hope that time will come when we may be united with Thee—when we may show, by some great word or deed, what we know we owe to Thee and Thee only.

Make us worthy, Oh, Lord, of all Thy blessings and help us to follow Thy laws, for our only wish is to be in Thy favor, forever. *Amen!*

SEPARATION FROM HOME AND DEAR ONES

ALMIGHTY FATHER IN HEAVEN;

EACH moment we are confronted with difficult situations, thoughts of uneasiness appear to our minds and our only hope is to look to Thee.

Our lives are but one continuous trust in Thee, our only hope for contentment and happiness rests in Thee. We pray Thee, Kind Father, to give us beautiful, strong thoughts, and firm minds, to cope with every weak idea and to buoy us up to the necessary pitch of control.

Why, Kind Father, are our thoughts so worldly? Why do we dwell upon mortal fears and mortal importance, when all belong to Thee, and all comes from Thee?

Give us strength, Kind Father, to thrust aside all evil thoughts and to live alone with Thee, in the light of Thy divine assurance.

Help us, Kind God, to be contented, in the separation from our loved ones, with the knowledge that Thou art ever with us, and near

to our wishes. We thank Thee, Oh, God, for Thy goodness to us, for Thy omnipotent help and guidance. All is from Thy hand, and Thou hast dealt bountifully with us, Great Father.

Let reciprocal thoughts abound in our hearts always; let us prove our gratitude in acts of kindness only, and make us better in grace, submission, and acknowledgment of Thy great power.

Help those who look up to Thee with faith and confidence in Thy supreme omnipotence, and they will in due season receive reward in the fulfilment of their wishes, for 'tis to Thee alone, Oh, God, we may be permitted to prefer a request. Bless all in our home, Kind Father, and comfort those who need Thee. *Amen!*

* Oh, God;

In Thy goodness, and all powerful guidance, Thou hast seen fit to content me with all surroundings and all phases of life.

Thou hast made me beloved by all those whom I meet and I only ask to be allowed to love Thee, and to feel that Thou art my Heavenly Father.

Forgive me, Lord, if I have sinned, and keep me pure and free from all contaminating influences.

I pray Thee, Oh, God, to never find me negligent in thanking Thee for Thy holy protection.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Almighty King and Father;

Another year of life with its glories and responsibilities has passed, governed by Thy will and masterful hand.

In safety and health, we have been guided by Thee through the labyrinth of cares and duties entailed upon us.

We have conquered all petty trials and moments of suspense clearly by the light of Thy divine sympathy and the consciousness of Thy untiring mercy.

In this hour of sincere gratitude we plead for Thy attention that we may, with devoted love and appreciation, deliver our heartfelt thankfulness for all Thy blessings.

These are meager expressions by which we would essay to lift our voices to Thee, for mortal words are all too inadequate in attempting to make our gratitude worthy of Thy exalted acceptance.

We pray, Kind Father, for another year of peace and contentment. We pray for another year of Thy watchful supervision and we thank Thee, Heavenly Father, for Thy will, whatever it may be.

* PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

On this New Year's eve, Oh, Lord, we bow down to Thee in gratitude, thankfulness and appreciation for the numerous blessings Thou hast bestowed upon us—for Thy never-tiring guidance during the past year and for the privilege of appealing to Thee for all our wants and needs.

Oh, God, what should we do without Thee? What would our lives be worth if Thou hadst not given us the great knowledge of Thy Supreme Being?

We are indeed grateful to Thee, Oh, Lord, for our wisdom, and now we submit to Thee our heart feeling, and we know that Thou wilt realize from On High that we are now and forever saying a prayer to Thee.

If we have sinned during the past year, we have surely done it unmeaningly, and the sins are trivial, and Thou art slow of anger, and quick to overlook our faults.

We admit, Oh, God, that without Thy watchful guidance we should be naught, and without Thy blessings we should feel naught, and without Thy help we should end as naught.

But Thou hast been good to us, Oh, Lord.

Thou hast blessed us with all things possible, so we have nothing for which to pray fervently, and have only to pray in gratitude.

But so long as we know this and realize Thy remarkable partiality in watching over our family, wilt Thou again be our Power for the coming year?

Wilt Thou again be with us in fair weather and in suspense, and wilt Thou let us look up to Thee for strength and support?

We pray, Oh, God, Thou wilt not forsake us, for without Thee we cannot live, or accomplish the great route Thou hast laid out before us.

May the coming year be filled with happy hours, such as this, and may we deserve Thy holy protection forever. *Amen!*

* CHILD'S PRAYER

Oh, Lord;

I feel that we overlook Thy great goodness to us and that we dwell too much upon the few days of sorrow Thou hast ordained for our good, instead of forgetting the days of gloom and remembering only Thy mysterious protection.

Oh, Lord, may there never be a time when Thou canst find me unmindful of Thy omnipresence, or ungrateful for Thy favored blessings.

I shall trust in Thee forever, Oh, Lord, my God, and shall never doubt that Thine is the only real power.

The happy child is he who dwells with Thee; blessed is he with love and fatherly guidance, as Thou alone canst give, and I feel, Oh, Lord, that I am one of those children, protected, watched, loved and blessed by Thee, my Holy One on High. *Amen!*

PRAYER FOR THE RECOVERY OF A BROTHER

Kind Father in Heaven, we exalt and praise Thy holy name, above all earthly expression.

We acknowledge and extol Thy divine power.

We ask Thy aid in all things and have looked only to Thee in these recent moments of distress.

During the past week the shadow of sorrow and deprivation has been hanging heavily over us, with ominous forebodings of the ills which might befall us, the trouble which might have deprived us of all future contentment and cheer.

But Thou in Thy heavenly mercy hast hearkened unto our appeal and hast spared unto us the beautiful altruistic life of our devoted brother, the faithful medium and servant of Thy divine commands.

We unite upon this solemn moment in prayers of gratitude to Thee; we again ask

Thee to watch over our dear brother, to assuage any physical suffering, to pacify any mental perturbance which might confront him, and to gradually restore him to health, in the goodness of Thy divine intervention and Thy omniscient, omnipresent power. *Amen!*

SKEPTICISM

FALTERING o'er the weary wayside,
  Grasping here, and clinging there,
Oft my heart has throbbed to murmur,
  Breathing accents of despair.

On the lonely path of sorrow,
  Discontent had breathed its sigh,
Naught appeased the aching torture,
  Till I felt Thy presence nigh.

When all life seemed filled with burden
  And all comfort, cold and drear,
Then rebellion surged within me,
  'Til I knew that Thou were near.

Love of friends, and words of kindness,
  Thrust upon my tired soul,
Could not cheer the life of trial
  'Til I sought Thy heavenly goal.

When temptation hovered o'er me,
  Pressing with its irksome yoke,
All the mortal weakness quavered
  'Til the God of Mercy spoke;

Spoke in thrilling silence near me
  To recall the weary past,
Driving forth the skeptic venom,
  'Til I found my God, at last.

Now I pray Thee, Heavenly Father,
  Keep me faithful, humble, true;
Serving Thee in good to others,
  Joining Thee in life anew.

FOR THE SKEPTICAL

Beautiful and calm is the Sabbath Thou hast in Thy wisdom ordained.

Free from toil and worldly interests, we meditate upon Thy great power—meditate upon the helplessness of mankind, and upon the necessity of Thy aid and Thy guidance.

As we acknowledge Thee, Oh, God, so do we pray for succor, for support, for consolation, and for the power of appreciation.

The days of sunshine are not permanent, yet the days of apparent gloom are filled with the assurance of Thy presence and Thy vigilance.

Blessed are those who have learned to know Thee, and to feel Thy power. Blessed are they who do not turn in skepticism before the great proofs of Thy existence.

The sun rises, yet they see not its splendor, and they forget the One Great Source. Were it to fail them one single day, on bended knees they would implore Thy aid.

So, with the manifold evidences of Thy existence, mankind is too remiss in the acknowledgment of Thy power. They (weak mortals) would fain pry into the mysteries

of Thy creation, and failing by their own inability, turn but to disclaim Thee. Even as the insect would essay to solve the intricacies of mankind, so is the weakness of human kind to be compared with Thy omnipotence.

Gifted as these mortals are with senses for discrimination, with all the sensitive organs of perception and discernment, they do not utilize these faculties to the better understanding of God, and when realization does not follow every earthly hope, they turn in despair upon mortal sympathy.

Do we not require Thy presence in joy, as well as in sorrow?

Are we not trembling creatures before Thy blessings, lest we deserve them not, and Thou takest them from us? For even as Thou bestowest, so canst Thou (in Thine own judgment) deprive.

Alas! let us not doubt, because we know not why, but in serene confidence yield to Thy great will and way.

We pray Thee, Heavenly Father, to remain in our midst, and in our hearts, even as we cherish Thy mighty presence always, and to bless us with Thy supervision.

FAVORITE PRAYERS OF OTHER AUTHORS

Sir Thomas Browne, 1605–1682

The night has come, like to the day,
Depart not Thou, great God, away,
Let not my sins, black as the night,
Eclipse the lustre of Thy light.
Keep still in my horizon, for to me,
The sun makes not the day, but Thee.

Thou whose nature cannot sleep,
On my temples sentry keep,
Guard me 'gainst those watchful foes
Whose eyes are open, while mine close.

Let no dreams my head infest
But such as Jacob's temple blest
While I do rest, my soul advance,
Make my sleep a holy trance;
That I may, my rest being wrought,
Awake into some holy thought
And with as active vigor run
My course, as doth the nimble sun.

Sleep is a death. Oh! make me try,
By sleeping, what it is to die;
And as gently lay my head,
On my grave, as now my bed.
Howe'er I rest, Great God, let me
Awake again at last with Thee,
And thus assured, behold I lie,
Securely, or to wake or die.

These are my drowsy days, in vain
I do now wake, to sleep again;
Oh! come that hour, when I shall never
Sleep again, but wake forever.

Joseph Addison

I know but one way of fortifying my soul against these gloomy presages, and terrors of mind, and that is to secure to myself the friendship and protection of that Being who disposes of events, and governs futurity.

He sees, at one view, the whole thread of my existence; not only that part of it which I have already passed through, but that which runs forward, into all the depths of eternity.

When I lay me down to sleep, I recommend myself to His care; when I awake, I give myself up to His direction.

Amidst all the evils that threaten me I will look up to Him, for help, and question not,

but He will either avert them, or turn them to my advantage.

Though I know not the time, nor the manner, of the death I am to die, I am not at all solicitous about it; because I am sure that He knows them both, and that He will not fail to comfort and support me, under them.

PRAYER

Go when the morning shineth,
  Go when the moon is bright,
Go when the day declineth,
  Go in the hush of night.
Go with pure mind and feeling,
  Fling earthly thoughts away,
And in thy chamber kneeling
  Do thou in secret pray.

Remember all who love thee,
  All who are loved by thee;
Pray, too, for those who hate thee,
  If any such there be.
Then for thyself in meekness,
  A blessing humbly claim,
And link with each petition
  Thy great Redeemer's name.

Or if 'tis e'er denied thee
  In solitude to pray,
Should holy thoughts come o'er thee,
  When friends are round thy way;
Even then the silent breathing
  Of thy spirit raised above,
Will reach His throne of glory,
  Who is mercy, truth and love.

Oh, not a joy or blessing
  With this can we compare,
The power that He hath given us,
  To pour our souls in prayer.
Whene'er thou pinest in sadness,
  Before His footstool fall,
And remember in thy gladness
  His grace who gives thee all.

ANONYMOUS

THE HOME OF THE SPIRIT

Felicia Hemans, 1793–1835

Answer me, burning stars of night,
  Where is the spirit gone,
That past the reach of human sight,
  As a swift breeze hath flown?
And the stars answered me: "We roll
  In light and power on high;
But of the never-dying soul
  Ask that which cannot die."

O many-toned chainless wind,
  Thou art a wanderer free;
Tell me if thou its place can find,
  Far over mount and sea?
And the wind murmured in reply:
  "The blue deep I have cross'd,
And met its barks and billows high,
  But not what thou hast lost."

Ye clouds that gorgeously repose
  Around the setting sun,
Answer—Have ye a home for those
  Whose earthly race is run?

The bright clouds answered: "We depart,
  We vanish from the sky;
Ask what is deathless in thy heart
  For that which cannot die."

Speak, then, thou voice of God within,
  Thou of the deep low tone;
Answer me, through life's restless din—
  Where is the spirit flown?
And the voice answered: "Be thou still;
  Enough to know is given;
Clouds, winds, and stars *their* part fulfil,
  Thine is to trust in Heaven."

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